

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

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R 110700Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6685

INFO AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PRAGUE

AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

USMISSION NATO

AMCONSUL ZAGREB

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT YO

SUBJECT: MITJA RIBICIC NEXT VICE PRESIDENT IN STATE PRESIDENCY

1. SUMMARY: SESSION OF SFRY PRESIDENCY ON BRIONI JULY 9, TITO PRESIDING, PICKED MITJA RIBICIC (PRESIDENCY MEMBER FROM SLOVENIA) TO ASSUME POST OF VICE PRESIDENT OF PRESIDENCY FOR ONE YEAR STARTING AUGUST 1. END SUMMARY.

2. SLOVENIA WAS REPUBLIC NEXT IN LINE TO FILL VP JOB, CURRENTLY HELD BY BOSNIAN, RATO DUGONJIC. RIBICIC, 54, WAS PRESIDENT OF FEDERAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL (PREMIER) 1969-71 AND PRESENTLY HEADS UP SOCIALIST ALLIANCE (MASS ORGANIZATION) IN SLOVENIA IN ADDITION TO HIS PRESIDENCY JOB. BEFORE TAKING FEC JOB HIS CAREER HAD BEEN LIMITED TO PARTY AND INTERNAL SECURITY WORK IN SLOVENIA.

3. COMMENT: RIBICIC'S NAME SELDOM IN HEADLINES SINCE HE
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LEFT PREMIER JOB, BUT HE DID MAKE SPEECH OF SOME INTEREST

LAST MAY 10 BEFORE "SPORTS MEET OF THE SECURITY SERVICES" IN LJUBLJANA. HE TALKED OF ATTEMPTS TO SIDETRACK SECURITY ORGANS FROM THEIR ASSIGNED TASKS: FIRST, ATTEMPT SEVEN YEARS BEFORE BY ADVOCATES OF STALINIST MODEL OF SOCIALIST STATE (I.E., BY RANKOVIC) TO PUT STATE SECURITY SERVICES ABOVE PARTY AND SOCIETY. SECOND, RECENT ATTEMPT BY THOSE WITH "TECHNOCRATIC/ LIBERALIST" AIMS TO LINK UP SECURITY SERVICES WITH REACTIONARY NATIONALISM.

4. ALTHOUGH HE IN NO SENSE LEFT FEC IN DISGRACE, RIBICIC'S TERM AS PREMIER WAS HELD TO TWO YEARS IN ORDER TO ALLOW GOVERNMENT OF DZEMAL BIJEDIC TO TAKE FRESH START WITH ITS INCREMENT OF ECONOMIC EXPERTISE. RIBICIC HAD BEEN CRITICIZED FOR DEQUENCE OF MEASURES ADOPTED BY FEC UNDER HIM IN UNDERTAKING PROGRAM OF STABILIZATION AND SPECIFICALLY FOR HIS HAVING PERSONALLY POSTPONED DEVALUATION OF DINAR WELL PAST TIME OF MAXIMUM IMPACT.

5. RIBICIC DUE TO BE VP IN PRESIDENCY WHEN NEW CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS BECOME EFFECTIVE -- BY NEXT SPRING -- CUTTING THAT BODY DOWN TO NINE MEMBERS (ONE FROM EACH REPUBLIC AND PROVINCE PLUS PRESIDENT OF LCY) FROM PRESENT 23. HIS FELLOW SLOVENES, MARKO BULC AND SERGEJ KRAJGER (PRESIDENT, SLOVENIAN ASSEMBLY) WILL PRESUMABLY BE DROPPED FROM PRESIDENCY.
TOON

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